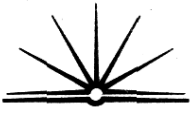
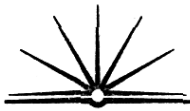


The responders of the 'Telling Stories' module has learnt a variety of things that are essential to short story writing. For example, Henry Lawson uses many narrative techniques to convey his ~~her~~ thoughts and feelings, and this is clearly shown in 'The Drover's Wife', 'Joe Wilson's Courtship' and 'In a Dry Season'. Other narrators also utilize the many many narrative techniques to convey their idea and is shown in 'The Train Came' by Allan Baillie and 'The Chosen Vessel' by Barbara Baynton. Through the use of such techniques as imagery, characterization and humour they alter the perceptions of the reader and all these techniques make their story successful.

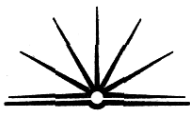


'The brock's Wife' by Lawson explores the notion of the bush heroine and informs us about bush life. ~~Imagery~~ Imagery is used by Lawson to establish the overall dominance of the bush, with 'bush all around' and 'nothing to relieve the eye'. The single focus narrative builds tension memorably from the first sighting, "snake! Mother. Here's a snake!". Lawson utilizes the language of the characters to provide immediacy and an authenticity as they make their initial responses to the '5 feet long black brute'. The anecdotes of the 'piri', 'flood' and 'swagman' all serve to heighten her strength despite seemingly endless problems and as suggested by Lawson's evocative phrase, 'it is a sickly daylight' which signals not an end but a continuation

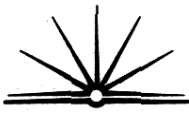


of her problems. The obliteration of the snake is portrayed with immediacy and emotional intensity through the employment of short sentences with minimal punctuation, 'He snaps again as the tail comes around'. Written in third person omniscient, Lawson allows the responder to experience the isolation and ~~danger~~<sup>danger</sup> of the bush. He is implying that heroes do not always win and that survival is achieved at a price.

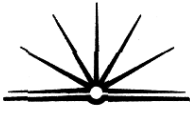
The Chosen Vessel by Barbara Baynton is a classic short story that utilises many techniques to narrate the story. It is similar to the 'Drove's Wife' in that it details the hardships of bush life, through the perspective of a bush woman. The pronoun 'she'



serves as her identity, defining the nature of bush life, and is a similar technique of generalisation used by Lawson in the 'Drover's Wife'. The arrival of the swag man creates the conflict as he demands 'money and tobacco' but the bush woman sternly refuses, a ~~strong~~ reflection of the strength of 'The Drover's Wife'. Baynton uses imagery and descriptive words to emphasise the dangers of the bush, such as the 'swagman with cruel eyes, lascivious mouth and gleaming knife' and is a similar danger the 'Drover's Wife' faces'. She also uses an extended metaphor and represents the bush woman as the 'lamb who might be spared by the dingo'. This emphasises the dangers of bush life and effectively tells the story.

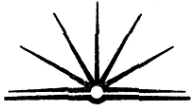


'In a Dry Season' by Lawson is written in first person to in order to draw us into the story and relate to the characters described. The author is acting as a painter, recording impressions of the outback at a scorching time, such as 'the railway hotels' and 'bush man'. The image of the artist who 'might make a water-colour sketch' is the first writing device used by Lawson and allows him to take the responder on a journey. As the outback towns are characterised by their railways 'railway hotels' then the characters are seen as extensions of their clothing, hence the bush man dressed to go out is characterised by his 'slop sac suit' and 'red face'. The sense of predictability, desolation

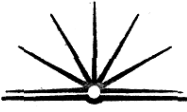


and futility of the bush is revealed by the quote 'death is about the only cheerful thing in the bush.' There is a subtle irony in the narrator's thought of the sundowner being 'mad and about to attack the train' when in fact his killing a snake. The tone ~~is~~ suggests the narrator deems anyone living in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> bush as 'mad'. Instead of drawing on specific events that characterise an individual, Lawson seeks to ~~compare~~ compare and ~~contrast~~ contrast the varying type of characters and this allows him to create an image that is distinctly representative of the Australian bush.

The Train Wreck by Allan Baillie is a short ~~two~~ story that takes the responder on a journey with three



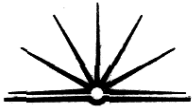
young teenagers on a train, ~~see~~ similar to 'A Dry Season'. Terris's behaviour precipitates the complication and is suggested by such words as 'he whooped away'. The movement of train is made aware to the reader as it 'swooped gently' and its increasing speed is emphasised through the use of imagery such as 'rushing tide of bush spinning past', a similar image 'In a Dry Season'. The movement of the train is also emphasised through the use of onomatopoeia such as 'hissed and thundered'. The use of sound imagery makes the story come alive for the reader. Images such as 'blackness' and ~~there~~ 'alone' suggests that something awful is going to happen and the conversational style of the



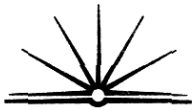
narrative allows the reader to experience the story from the perspective of each character and form their own view of what really happened at the conclusion.

'Joe Wilson's Courtship' by Lawson appeals to us because it is a love story. Lawson utilises Joe's internal dialogue to provide us with a much greater understanding of his personality and he relates that 'whenever a girl took any notice of me I took it for granted she was was playing with me'. This allows the responder to feel a great deal of sympathy for Joe as we privy to his thoughts and feelings. The anniversary day and the arrival of Romany provides the climax to the story. For Romany





is described as having the 'nastiest temper' and this is the catalyst which reveals Joe's love for Mary. Joe defeats Romany the and this is a reflection of his feelings for Mary. If we compare love stories, there are common themes and experiences throughout all of them and in this way 'Joe Wilson's courtship' has a timeless quality about it and is suggested by Mr Black who says 'I got thinking of the day I was courting Mrs Black'. Lawson also utilises humour and sarcasm to show Joe's unpermeated personality such as 'I've two minds to punch your head in'. Lawson's use of narration techniques is awe-inspiring.



All of the above texts clearly and effectively convey their meaning through the employment of many techniques and this makes their stories successful, as clearly shown by Henry Lawson, Barbara Baynton and Allan Baillie.